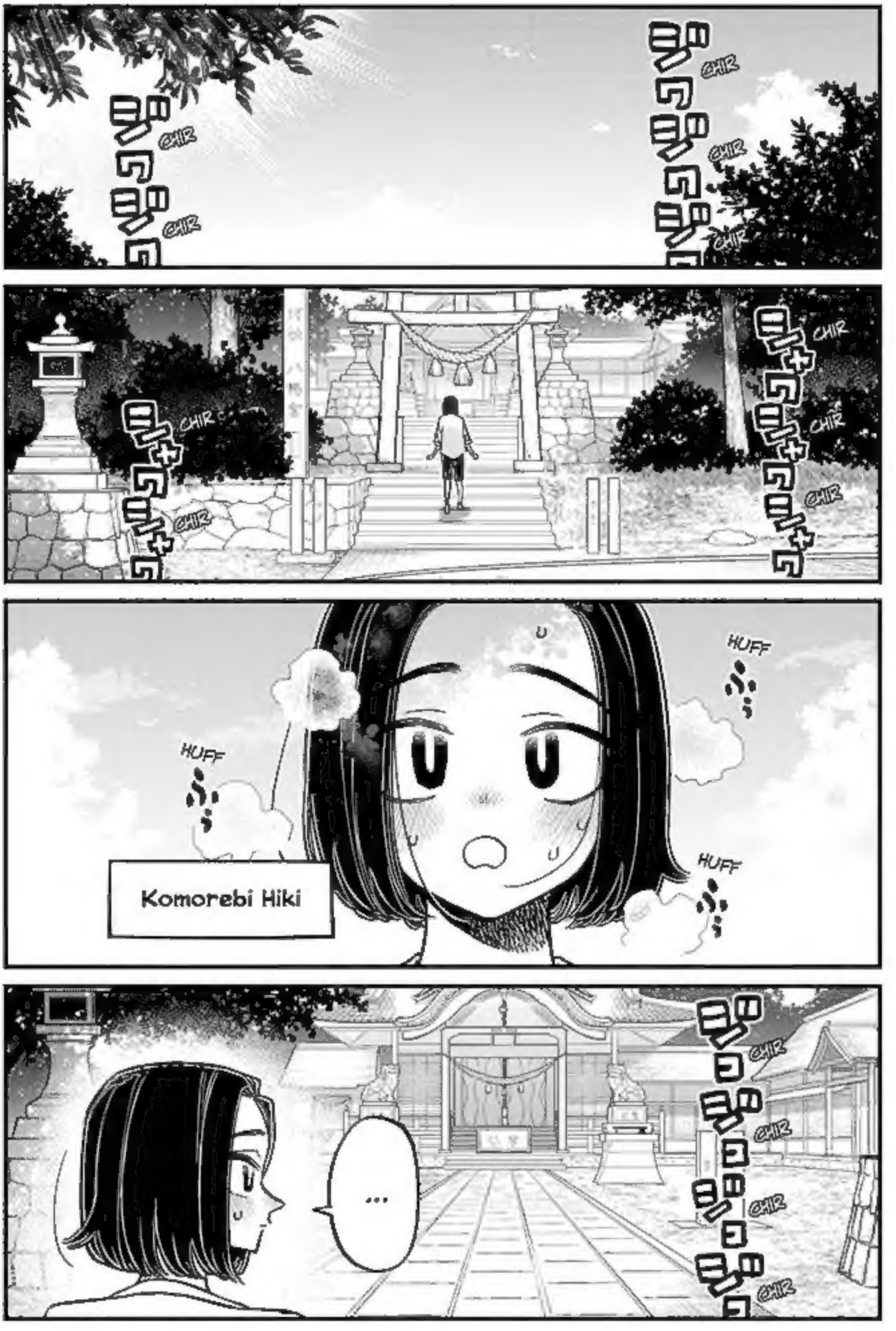
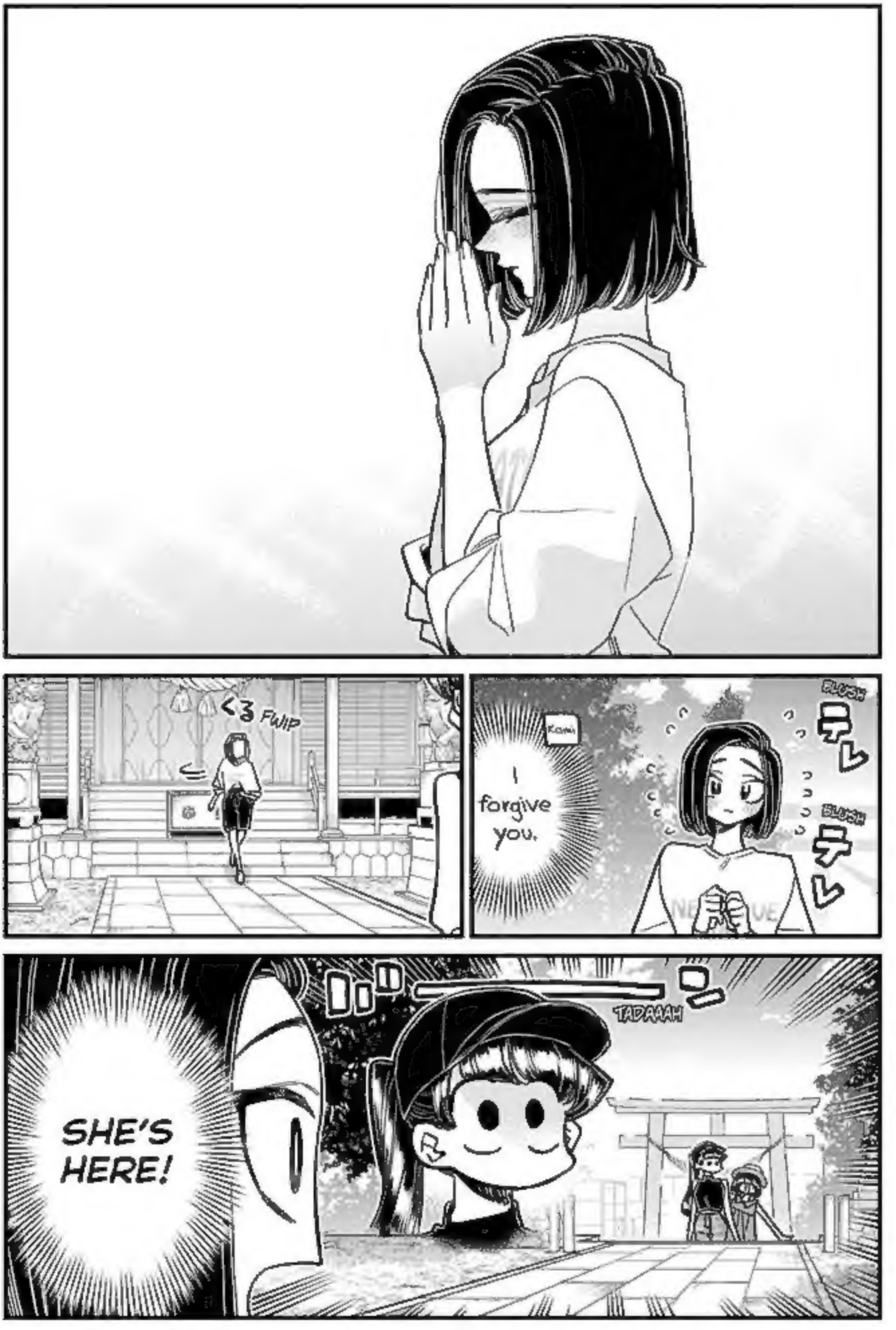
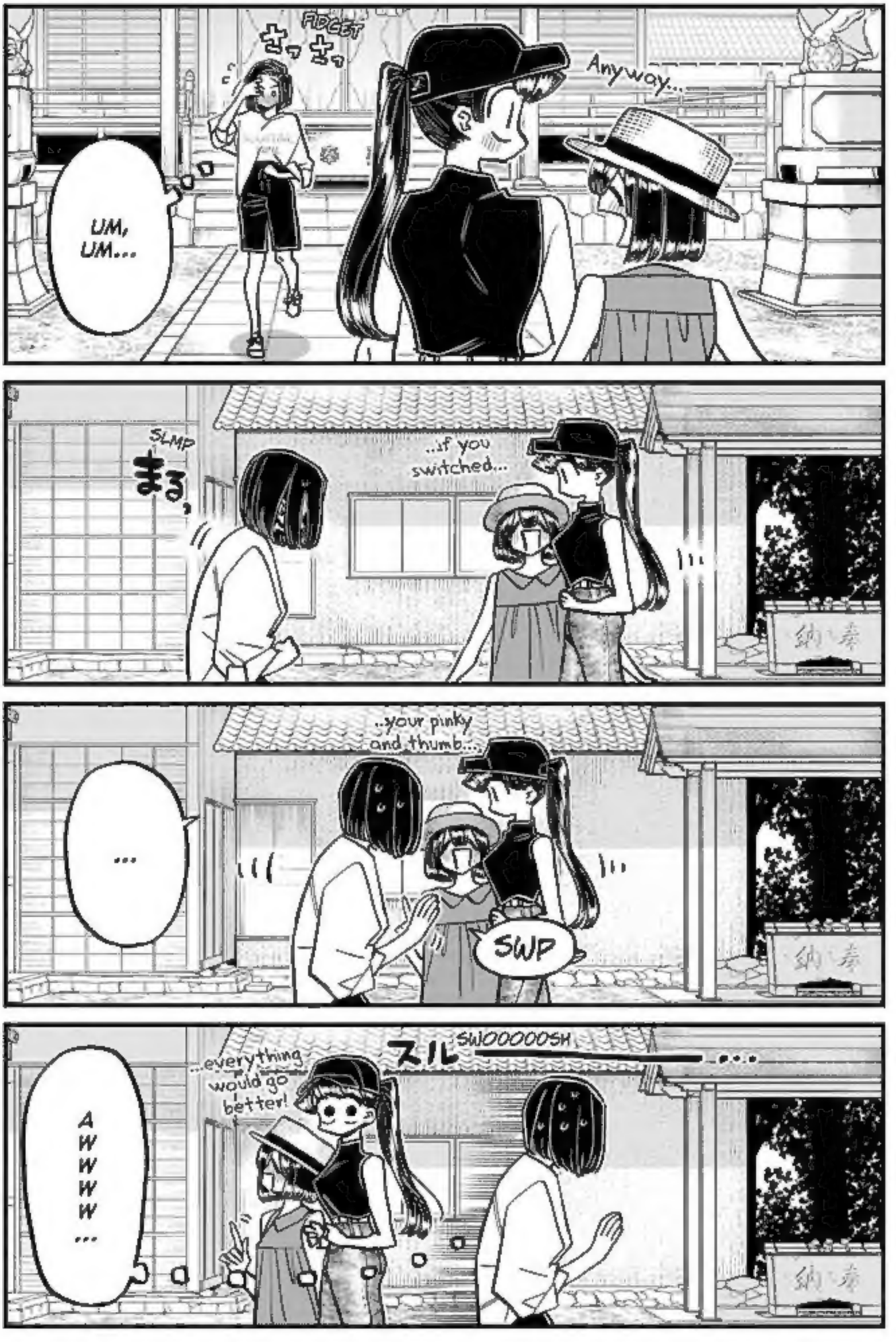
Story and Art by Tomohito Oda

Translation: John Werry Lettering: Kyla Aiko


CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Komorebi Hiki
...
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR

*SIGN: OFFERINGS


<3 FWIP
I forgive you.
SHE'S HERE!
TADAAAH


FIDGET
Anyway...
UM, UM...
SLMP
..if you switched...
...
..your pinky and thumb...
SWP
...everything would go better!
SWOOOOOSH
AWWWW...

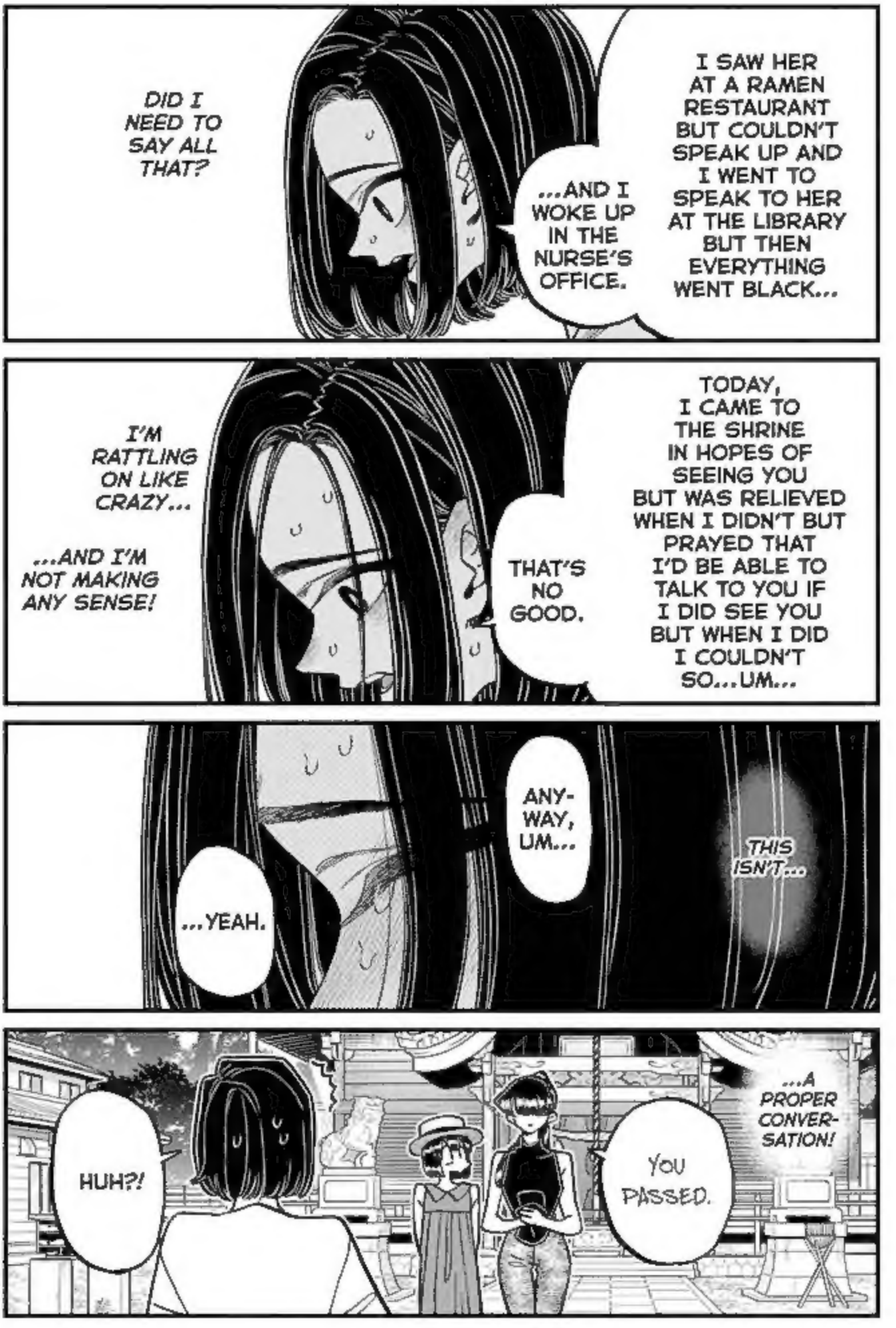
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE HER ANYWAY!
I'LL JUST GO HOME.
YEAH, I'LL JUST GO!
I WASN'T READY!
Komo-rebi
UM...
...AHEM!
!

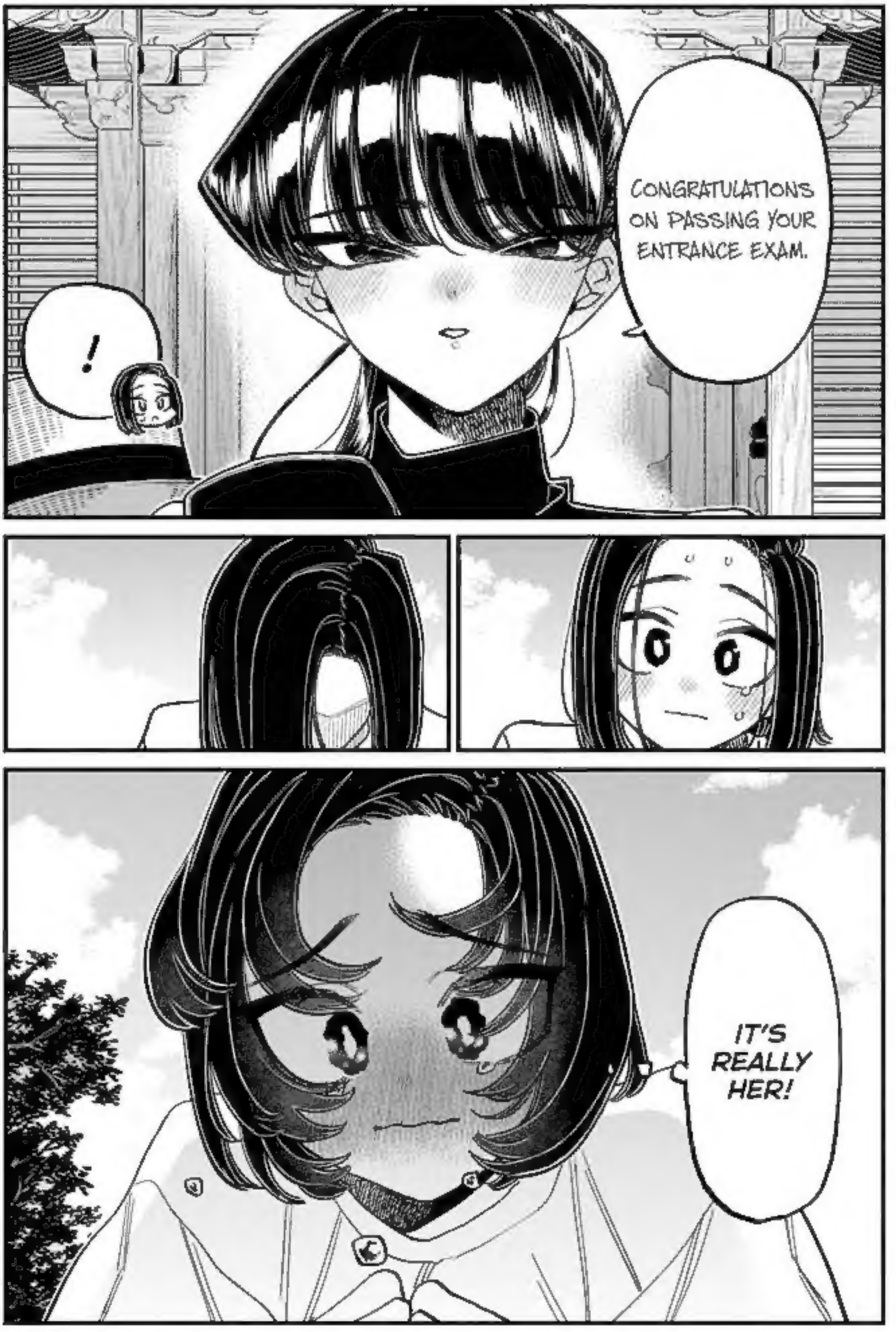
Called out to a possible acquaintance, but suddenly lost confidence
?!
TRMBL
UM... NO...
...I'M SORRY... IT'S NOTHING... SO...
...NEVER MIND.

BUT KOMI'S THE ONE WHO SPOKE UP!!
GRAAAH
ばー
WELL, I HAVE SOME-THING TO SAY!

...AND HER WORDS INSPIRED ME TO WORK HARD STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS.
UM, A SHRINE MAIDEN HELPED ME OUT HERE IN THE WINTER...

...BUT I'M NOT SURE, SO I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
...SO I WONDERED IF YOU'RE THE SAME PERSON...
THEN I SAW YOU AT SCHOOL, AND YOU LOOK LIKE HER...
CAT EARS!?


DID I NEED TO SAY ALL THAT?
...AND I WOKE UP IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
I SAW HER AT A RAMEN RESTAURANT BUT COULDN'T SPEAK UP AND I WENT TO SPEAK TO HER AT THE LIBRARY BUT THEN EVERYTHING WENT BLACK...
I'M RATTLING ON LIKE CRAZY...
...AND I'M NOT MAKING ANY SENSE!
THAT'S NO GOOD.
TODAY, I CAME TO THE SHRINE IN HOPES OF SEEING YOU BUT WAS RELIEVED WHEN I DIDN'T BUT PRAYED THAT I'D BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU IF I DID SEE YOU BUT WHEN I DID I COULDN'T SO...UM...
...YEAH.
ANY-WAY, UM...
THIS ISN'T...
HUH?!
YOU PASSED.
...A PROPER CONVER-SATION!

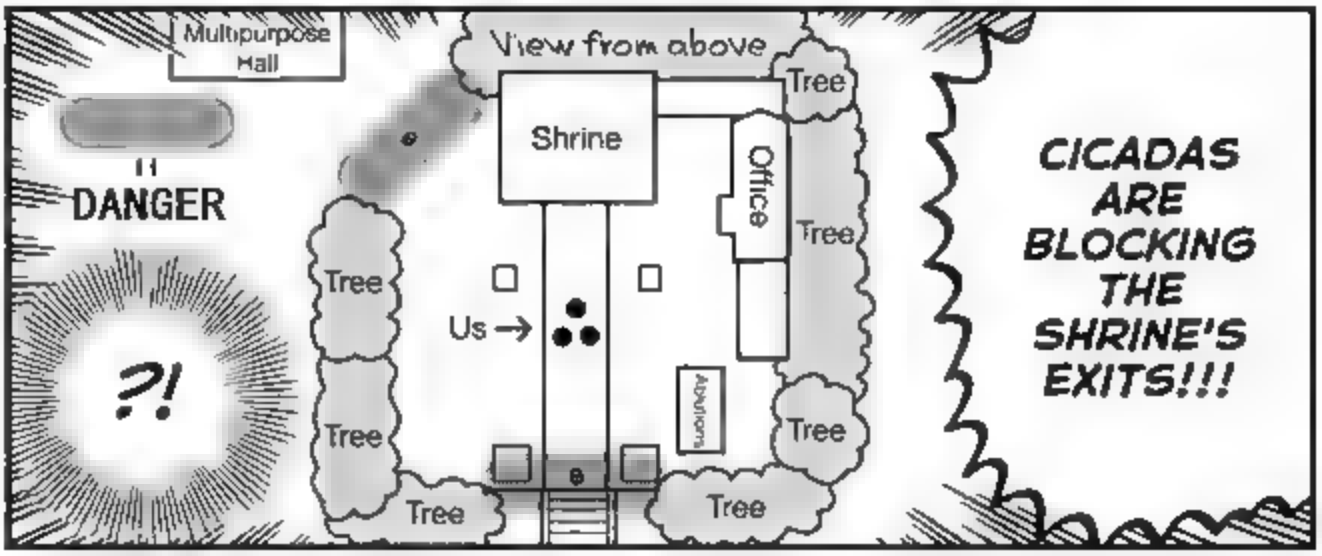

CONGRATULATIONS ON PASSING YOUR ENTRANCE EXAM.
!
IT'S REALLY HER!

!
BUSTU
BUSTU
UM...
ジジ…
BUZZ
THANK YOU FOR...
...THE CHARM.
?!!
突然!!!
SUDDEN!!
CICADAAAA!!!!
??!!
BUSH
DODGE IT!!

N. NOD
ふ…ふん!
…!
DID IT HIT YOU?! ARE YOU OKAY?!

UGHHHHH
COLLIDE WITH A CICADA AND YOU'LL BE BUMMED FOR A WEEK!!

?!
OH NO!!


Multipurpose Hall
DANGER
?!
View from above
Shrine
Office
Tree
Us →
Abutments
CICADAS ARE BLOCKING THE SHRINE'S EXITS!!!

Thinks they can carefully slip past
HUH? THEN...
?!
THEN WE'RE... TRAPPED?
GACK
ぱぁ!!
?!
YES, I'M AFRAID SO.
???!
THEY HAVE US CICADA-RROUNDED!!

BUT ARE YOU CONFIDENT, SHOKO?!
Suggesting they carefully slip past
ARE YOU CONFIDENT YOU CAN DODGE A DIVE-BOMBING CICADA?!
!!
IF IT HITS YOU, YOU'LL DIE (INSIDE)!!
...
TRMMMMMM
YIIKES

...THEY CAN ESCAPE!
...AND SCARE THE CICADA AWAY...
MAYBE IF I APPROACH ...
GRIP
I MUST SACRIFICE MYSELF!
KOMOREBI ?!
TUMP
TMP
NO, WAIT!
DON'T DO ANY-THING RASH!!
TMP
TMP

ビクッ
SKREE!
KOMOREBIIIIII!!!
Fainted
THUD
クラッ
CHIR
CHIR
CHIR
That was reckless!

SHOKO ?!!
WHSH
WIGL
WIGL
WIGL
FLOP
コロン
SHOKOOO ?!!
WHSH

ヒエエエエエエエエエエ
YUUUKES
WIGL
WIGL
DON'T BE AFRAID.
WE STILL HAVE EACH OTHER!
SMILE
Akira has given up.
!!
!
THERE'S A LI'L CRITTER!

To be continued!